



# TERRITORY AND TERRITORIALIZATION: PRESENT STATE OF THE CAENTI THOUGHT

Pierre Champollion

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**CAENTI**

**WP4T**

***TERRITORY AND TERRITORIALIZATION:  
PRESENT STATE OF THE CAENTI THOUGHT***

**Alba Iulia**

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**Pierre CHAMPOLLION**

IA-IPR AVS

**OER, UMR ADEF**

IUFM de l'Académie de Grenoble

Leader WP4T CAENTI

[pierre.champollion@grenoble.iufm.fr](mailto:pierre.champollion@grenoble.iufm.fr)

+33 (0)4 75 44 92 92

Professional address

IUFM de Grenoble, site de Valence ★ 36 avenue de l'Ecole Normale ★ F-26000 Valence

### **Abstract :**

This presentation aims at summing up the present state of the scientific thought about territory, territoriality and process of site specification. In this way, it uses recent scientific works which were led between 2004 and 2006 by ENTI and CAENTI in Pecs (HU, 2004), Liege (BE, 2005) and Aix-en-Provence (FR, 2005 & 2006). From different disciplinary points of view (education science, geography, information and communication science, sociology...), we should think about fundamental questions, and especially about the suggestion of a first interdisciplinary definition. Territories refer to “places, that are not necessarily adjacent, but that are networked, fitted together into changing scales, which are productive of meanings and identities” (CHAMPOLLION & POIREY, 2004). So “there is no territory, even immaterial territory, without a collective projection of its actors on a common structuring future which generates identity and symbolic” (CHAMPOLLION & PIPONNIER, 2005). New specific developments of this concept building will be expected in 2007. The process of site specification or territorialization, that is to say the connexions between human community and space, will be made particularly explicit thank to the notions of project, networking, identity, community, ...

### **Key words:**

Territory, territorialization, interdisciplinarity, appropriation, projection, identity, network, space

# ***PRESENT STATE OF THE CAENTI THOUGHT ABOUT TERRITORY AND SITE SPECIFICATION***

Five anterior meetings about “territory and territorialization” were organized by ENTI and CAENTI

## **INTRODUCTION: FIRST FIVE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS**

In the global framework of the WP4T<sup>1</sup>, five first fundamental questions were asked by the WP4T members when we started working on this topic in 2006 (four over these first five questions directly come from the CAENTI global project):

- What is territory? What is territoriality? What is territorialization?
- Are there different disciplinary approaches of the territory?
- Is it possible to consider the territory as an interdisciplinary concept?
- Who are presently the territory actors?
- What is territorial development actually?
- What are the most relevant territories for the sustainable development?

## **1. CHRONOLOGY OF THE ANTERIOR WORK SESSIONS (ENTI / CAENTI / OTHER ONES) AND INITIAL REFERENCES TO FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS**

### **1.1. Chronology of all anterior meetings about “territory”**

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<sup>1</sup> See more details in the *Presentation of CAENTI* pp 6-8, 12 and 73-74.

- University of Pécs / Hungary / ENTI: May, 2004
- IUFM of Aix-en-Provence / France / ENTI : May 2005
- University of Liege / Belgium / ENTI: October 2005
- University of Franche-Comté / CAENTI / France : Seminar ICT-territories: June 2006
- IUFM of Aix-en-Provence / France / CAENTI: July 2006

Many other internal seminars about education territories and education process of territorialization have been organized by the ORS since 1999 (especially with the CEREQ, the ENFA, but also with many other partners).

### **1.2. Initial reference to the concept of “territory”**

This initial reference, which was identified by the collective thinking of the WP4T, is due to H. GUMUCHIAN, who is a member of the scientific laboratory “Territoires” (UJF-CNRS).

*The word of territory means two things: either it refers to a legal and administrative reality, as in « national and regional development », or it refers to the concept of « territoriality », which has been very often used in the social sciences for twenty years. The territory is as much a natural reality as a social one, so it is not easy to break up. Environment, experiences, representations and social-political-organization compose a system*

which parts are interdependent (GUMUCHIAN, 2001).

## 2. FOUR DISCIPLINARY APPROACHES

Presentation of the state of the art about the “territory” concept in the next four academic disciplines : « geography », « education science », « information and communication science » and « sociology ». Other academic disciplines will be studied in 2007 (before, during and after the meeting of Salerno).

### 2.1. The concept of territory in geography

This short state of the art about territory in geography was presented during the meeting of Aix-en-Provence in July 2006 by S. ORMAUX (ThéMA laboratory/leader of the WP4M) and by J.-L. POIREY (CAENTI / TheMA-Territorial Intelligence).

Even if the spatial reference is central, territory has a double nature: it is at the same time material (as a geographic space) and symbolic (the representation of a social environment). Space implies thinking about the territories limits, continuities and reconstructions. Territory mixes spaces and networks.

Historically, the word « territory » appeared rather recently in the geographical vocabulary, and more broadly in the social sciences one. The Francophone production has paid interest to it for the first time in the 1982 edition of the co-called “Geopoint encounters”: “The daily life territories”. From this moment on, the uses and meanings of the word “territory” multiplied, what created communication difficulties. The Dictionary of Geography (LEVY & LISSAULT) devoted ten pages to this word in 2004, whereas *Les Mots de la géographie* (BRUNET, FERRAS, THERY), which was published in 1993, only devoted one page to this word.

Territory is firstly a geographical space on which there is a belonging and appropriation feeling (BRUNET, 1992), but it is also considered as a power application space (MICOUD, 2000) and consequently it testifies to an economic, ideological and political appropriation of the space by some groups (DI MEO, 1998).

Thus, it lays either on the existence of a social space and of a lived space, or on an arranged geographical space (CIATTONI, 2003).

Consequently, the territory is linked to the life of the societies that live on it, in a strict administrative meaning when it is used within the vocabulary of the geography of installation (SACK, 1986, 1991), or in an abstracted wide meaning when we study the representations the people have (BADIE, 1995). This thought space is conceived as the result of the societies’ action. It is the subject of mental representations systems on the base of historical and ideological facts (POULLE, GORGEU, 1997).

Lastly, appropriation is as important as the local action of the societies who live on the territory and transform it (BRUNET, 2001). Each territory has his own actors and its encased power levels (BUSSI, BADIAROTTI, 2004). The actors systems are inscribed in the territories in the governance framework (MOINE, 2006).

Six-elements of “territory” were especially presented by S. ORMAUX and J.-L. POIREY:

- Territory is a human and social construction.
- It has two origins: a legal one (jus) and an ethological – ecological one<sup>2</sup>.
- It has three dimensions: an existential one (life), a physical one (frame) and an organizational one (society).
- It has two metrics: a space or topographic one and a network one.
- Territory is made by local actors.
- Territory can produce effects.

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<sup>2</sup> These two origins of territory are very likely to come from the classic «jus terrendi» of the Justinian emperor.

Today it appears that the “territory” concept, which comes from the space, is nevertheless more complex than an only appropriated space.

Eventually, from this point of view, territory is a complex system, that is composed by several sub-systems (space, representations, actors), which are interdependent (MOINE, 2006). This approach clearly refers to the definition that was initially suggested, and that was used by the WP4T team too (GUMUCHIAN, 2001).

First list of authors who worked on this topic: D. BADARIOTTI, B. BADIE, J. BONNEMAISON, R. BRUNET, M. BUSSI, A. CIATTONI, P. CLAVAL, Y. CROZET, A. CUNHA, B. DEBARDIEUX, M. FERRAS, A. FREMONT, Y. GORGEU, H. GUMUCHIAN, G. DI MEO, J. LEVYM, LUSSAULT, A. MICOUD, H. MINTEZBERG, A. MOINE, B. MERENNE-SCHUMAKER, B. PECQUEUR, F. POULLE, D. PUMAIN, C. RAFFESTIN, R. R. SACK, S. SCHMITZ, H. THERY, R.-D. SACK, M-C SMOUTS, Y. VEYRET, ...

## 2.2. The concept of territory in the education science

This short state of the art about territory in the education science was introduced during the meeting of Aix-en-Provence in July 2006 by P. CHAMPOLLION (IUFM of Grenoble / leader of the WP4T) and A. LEGARDEZ (IUFM of Aix-Marseille / WP4T).

- Knowledge territorialization is little legitimate.
- Professional training territorialization is more legitimate.
- Education territory mainly corresponds to the school recruitment areas and to the school formation offer.
- School territorialization generally means territorialization of the school organization. In France, this meaning of the school territorialization mainly come from the urban social development.

- School policies are often based on territories (decentralization, French law “Mountain” of 1985...).
- School results and pupils’ career choices are influenced by “effects of territory” . (GRELET, 2004; CHAMPOLLION, 2005)

First list of authors who presently work on this topic: J.-J. ARRIGHI, A. BOUJU, L. BOURQUELOT, P. CARO, P. CHAMPOLLION, B. CHARLOT, M. DURU-BELLAT, Y. GRELET, Y. JEAN, A. LEGARDEZ, A. MINGAT, ...

## 2.3. The concept of territory in the information and communication science (ICS)

This short state of the art about territory in the ICS was presented during the Aix-en-Provence meeting in July 2005 by A. PIPONNIER (IUT Michel de Montaigne / University de Bordeaux 3 / external evaluator / WP3 / CAENTI).

The non adjacent territories are fundamentally based on two main metrics:

- Communication: network metric (social, cultural, ...).
- Information: space metric (diffusion areas of newspapers, radios, TVs, ...).

For the ICT, the first communicational stake of a territory, which is as much internal as external, is its existence<sup>3</sup>.

For the ICT, territory is also a space that is structured by internal and external information, and which generates coherence and identity.

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<sup>3</sup> See “Territoires : entre imaginaire et réalité”, in *Publics : territoires et communication*, n°53, July-August 2004, pp 6-9, and acts of the 25<sup>ème</sup> Université d’été de la communication, Hourtin, August 2004.

First list of authors who presently work on this topic: Y. BERTACCHINI, P. DUMAS, J.-P. GARNIER, J.-J. GIRARDOT, B. JURDANT, J. LE MAREC, D. PAGES, N. PELISSIER, A. PIPONNIER, ...

## 2.4. The concept of territory in sociology

This short state of the art about the territory in sociology was presented during the meeting of Aix-en-Provence in July 2005 by Y. ALPE (IUFM of Aix-Marseille / leader of the European school observatory / WP6) and J.-L. FAUGUET (IUFM of Aix-Marseille / European school observatory / WP6).

For the sociologists, territory is at the same time a constraint and a stake. According to them, it can be studied from several points of view:

- Territory is a social constructed and as space the citizens appropriated.
- Territory is structured by cultural, economic and social networks.
- Territory is the place of local actors' practices.
- Territory is at once spatial and symbolic.
- Territory produces identity.

Sociologists (HERVIEU & VIARD, 2001) presently consider territories as territories of membership and territories of reference.

First list of authors who presently work on this topic: J-C CHAMBOREDON, A. COULON, J. FREUND, I. G. FELOUZIS, F. GERBEAUX, Y. GRAFMEYER & I. JOSEPH (Chicago sociology school), M. GREVERUS, E. T. HALL, HERVIEU and VIARD, M. HEIDEGGER, B. LAHIRE, M. MORMONT, E. SCHWARTZ, M. WEBER, A. VAN ZANTEN, ...

## 3. FIRST INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH (OER / ENTI / CAENTI)

### 3.1. OER / 2004 / Aix-en-Provence / France:

In 2005, a first definition of « territory » was presented in Aix-en-Provence during the RAPPE (Analysis Network of Education Public Policies) seminar:

*Places, not necessarily adjacent, networked, fitted together into changing scales, that are productive of meaning and identities* (CHAMPOLLION & POIREY, 2004).

### 3.2. ENTI / 2005 / Liege / Belgium:

This initial definition was explained in the "Territorial intelligence" CAENTI conference of Liege (2005) as the consequence of many exchanges among the WP4T team:

*There is no territory, even immaterial one, without the collective projection of its actors on a common structuring future, which generates identity and symbolic* (CHAMPOLLION & PIPONNIER, 2005).

### 3.3. CAENTI / 2006 / Aix-en-Provence / France :

A collective thinking<sup>4</sup> allowed identifying five first key-elements concerning the territory concept:

- Territory is a set of resources.
- Territory is a « construction ».
- Territory looks towards future.
- Territory can produce specific effects (« effects of territory »).
- On a territory, there are tensions between

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<sup>4</sup> See more details in Alain LEGARDEZ's report on Coospace.

the « local » and the « global » which produces multiple memberships.

## FIRST CONCLUSIONS

One central question, which was already identified during the meeting of Pecs (2005) and that was later studied in Aix (2006), and many other main questions, appeared during this first year of work<sup>5</sup> :

### First central question (ENTI):

From “when”, i.e. from what kind of organization and from which organization level, a natural or human space becomes a territory, ie from which moment the process of site specification or territorialization is developing?

See for example, in France, the difference between “carte scolaire” and “bassin de formation” in the public education policies.

### Main other adjacent questions (CAENTI):

The collective thinking of the WP4T members and of the invited researchers allowed asking these eight questions;

- Is territory an interdisciplinary concept or only a social science concept?
- What are the connections between a specific territory and a country, Europe and the world?
- What are the conditions of the sustainable development?
- What is the place of territorial intelligence in the territorial sustainable development?
- Does territory necessarily belong to a

single community (warning of danger of communitarism in this case)?

- Are there connections between territory and interculturality?
- Are there multiple identities?
- Is territory a space where the projects that were built by a community actors develop?

The answers to all these questions that could be partly given in 2007 will allow continuing the scientific interdisciplinary research activities about territory and process of site specification.

### Work prospects

*The reference to the systemic paradigm allows leaving to the concept of territory a transdisciplinarity that should be presently asserted, but also a thickness the concept can not and should not give up (MOINE, 2006).*

As a consequence, it seems the continuation of the WP4T work should be mostly made according to a systemic approach that has been evoked since the beginning of the group works, through H. GUMUCHIAN's initial definition, the variety of the different disciplinary references that were initially quoted and, above all, the interdisciplinary thoughts that started during the meetings...

## WORK ESTIMATE CALENDARY

- **2006** : Short state of the art about the concept of « territory » and first interdisciplinary scientific definition of “territory”
- **2007** : Finalization of the pluridisciplinary inventory, by increasing the connections between space and human community thanks to the concepts of appropriation, feed-back, project, identity, patrimony,... and continuation of the scientific work about the interdisciplinary definition of the « territory » concept
- **2008** : WP4 general synthesis

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<sup>5</sup> Ibidem.



## NEXT PLANNED MEETINGS (SEMINARS & CONFERENCES)

- **University of Salerno / Italia / Seminar:**  
May, 11th-12th May 2007

In the general framework of the conference of Huelva preparation, this next meeting has three main objectives:

- Completing and making more international the first elements of the scientific bibliography about territory and process of site specification.
- Adding the multidisciplinary approach of "territory" by using elements of cultural anthropology, history science, politics science,...
- Improving the first interdisciplinary definition of "territory" (Aix: 2004; Liege: 2005).

- **University of Huelva / Spain / Conference :**  
Octobre 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> 2007

In Huelva, the interdisciplinary definition of territory will be operational. Consequently, the territory actors will be able to use it.

- **Next potential meeting (to prepare the final conference of Besançon) :** May or June 2008?  
Where ? Spain ?
- **University of Franche Comté / France / Final conference :** Octobre 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2008

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